Outstanding amount against Escrow Account

6117. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total outstanding amount against the Escrow Account with Russia as of current financial year;

(b) whether many exporters are misusing this account on a large scale through over invoicing to get more export benefits from the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps are being taken to check this large scale misuse of this account by exporters ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) As on May 2, 1997 the balance in the Central Account of the Russian Bank for Foreign Economic Relations (BFEA) with Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Bombay, was Rupees 1,866 crores (Rupees One thousand, eight hundred and sixty six crores).

(b) and (c) Some instances of suspected misuse of the Escrow account have come to the notice of the Enforcement Directorate. A Show Cause Notice has been issued for the alleged violation of the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 to the extent of US $ 4.5 lakhs.

(d) The Government keeps a strict vigil in this regard and actions as envisaged in the law are taken as and when any such case is detected.

Rural Electrification

6118 SHRI N. DENNIS :

SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to redefine the concept of rural electrification;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the new concept has been discussed with various political parties and State Governments;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the extent to which the new proposals are likely to be accepted by the State Governments; and

(f) the measures being taken by the Government for the implementation of new proposals ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (f) Yes, Sir. As per the existing definition of village electrification, a village is deemed to be electrified if electricity is used within the revenue boundary of the village for any purpose whatsoever. It is proposed to widen the ambit of this definition so as to include the inhabited locality of the village. The State Electricty Boards/State Government have been consulted in the matter and this issue has also been discussed by various Parliamentary Committees attached to the Ministry of Power.

Since the proposed new definition of village electrification is to cover the inhabited locality of the villages, it will have the advantage of extending electricity to more households and is therefore, likely to be accepted by the State Governments.

Land on Concesaional Rates

6119. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the DDA allots lands to certain institutions on lease at concessional rates;

(b) if so, the criteria, the terms and conditions of the lease agreements;

(c) the names of the institutions which have allotted land with the area and location of land allotted so far in Delhi;

(d) whether some of these allottees are found to have violated the terms and conditions of lease agreements; and

(e) if so, the names of such allottees and the action being taken against them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The allotment of land is made to the registered societies/institutions at concessional rates considering the recommendation of Govt. of India/Govt. of NCT of Delhi on institutional rates approved by the Ministry of Urabn Affairs & Employment from time to time. The terms and conditions of the lease agreement are available in the perpetual lease-deed form.

(c) Approximately 1005 institutions have been allotted land in Delhi by DDA. The names of such institutions alongwith the area and the location of land allotted to them during the last 5 years are given in the attached statement-I.

(d) and (e) List of allottees/institutions who have violated the terms and conditions of lease agreement are given in attached statement-II. Action against those violating the terms of allotment is taken as per the conditions of the allotment letter and lease-deed.